

### Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed March 17, 2006, the present application has been carefully reviewed and amended. Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

### *Drawings*

Figure 1 has been amended to include the legend -- Prior Art --. A replacement sheet is accompanies this amendment.

### *Rejections under 35 USC §102*

Claims 1 - 9 and 11 - 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Bevelander (US 4,632,287). The Examiner asserts the '287 patent discloses, the polymeric sheath 24 encapsulates a length of one of the garment engaging arms 16. [Paper 03152006, p. 4]

Claim1 has been amended and recites in part,

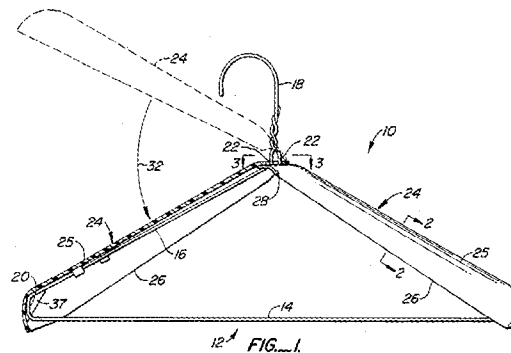
the polymeric sheath circumscribing the garment  
engaging arm along the length of the garment  
engaging arm.

Applicant respectfully submits Bevelander does not disclose this limitation. Specifically, as cited by the Examiner, Figure 2 discloses a member 24 of Bevelander engaging the hanger segment 16 by ridges 33 to releasably engage the member to the segment. However, this does not provide a circumscription of the garment engaging arm as recited in Claim 1. That is, as seen in Figure 2 of the '287 patent, there is an open bottom exposing the hanger.

Further, Claim 1 has been amended to recite,

a continuously convex length in each of the garment engaging arms, the convex length substantially extending from the hook to the strut

Bevelander does not disclose this structure. Specifically, the members 24 of Bevelander are linear between the hook segment 18 and the bottom segment 14.



The absence of at least these limitations in amended Claim 1 overcomes the outstanding rejection of Claim 1 in view of Bevelander.

As Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and includes all limitations thereof, Claim 2 is also in condition for allowance.

#### *Claim 4*

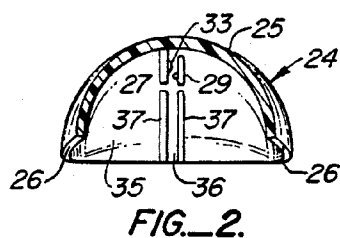
Claim 4 depends from Claim 1 and further recites in part,

wherein the polymeric sheath is concentric with the one of the garment engaging arms.

The Examiner asserts,

the polymeric sheath 24 is concentric with one of the garment engaging arms 16 since the sheath surrounds the frame of the hanger (Figure 2). [Paper 03152006, p. 4]

Applicant respectfully submits Figure 2 of Bevelander does not disclose a concentric sheath about a garment engaging arm 16.



Concentric is defined as having a common center. Applicant is unable to identify a center of the member 24. Further, were the center of the segment 16 of Bevelander deemed to be concentric with the hanger, Applicant respectfully submits such linguistic manipulation of the term concentric is not sustainable.

Further, Applicant notes the Examiner asserts the polymeric sheath 24 of Bevelander is both concentric with one of the engaging arms and eccentric with one of the engaging arms in that the sheath simultaneously surrounds the frame of the hanger and does not extend completely around the entire arm 16.

Therefore, applicant submits Claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

#### *Claim 5*

As Claim 5 depends from Claim 1 and includes all the limitations thereof, Claim 5 is condition for allowance.

#### *Claim 6*

Claim 6 recites in part, “the polymeric sheath has a cellular structure.” The Examiner asserts, without support,

the polymeric sheath 24 is fabricated from plastic and has a cellular structure. [Paper 03152006, p. 5]

No portion of Bevelander has been identified to disclose the polymeric sheath 24 has a cellular structure. Further, there is not basis for the assertion that all plastics have a cellular structure. The absence of this limitation overcomes the asserted rejection.

#### *Claims 7-9*

Claims 7, 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and include all the limitations thereof. Therefore, this claims are believed in condition for allowance.

#### *Claim 11*

Claim 11 has been amended and recites in part “the polymeric sheath is a sleeve having a circular cross section.”

As Bevelander does not disclose a sleeve having a circular cross section, Applicant respectfully submits this rejection has been overcome.

#### *Claim 12*

Independent Claim 12 has been amended and recites in part,

forming a frame having a hook, a pair of depending garment engaging arms and a transverse strut extending between the garment engaging arms, the garment engaging arms having a continuously convex length substantially extending from the hook to the strut; and forming a polymeric encapsulation on the garment engaging arms

Bevelander does not disclose an encapsulation of the segment 16. That is, the Bevelander segment 16 is exposed through the open bottom of the member 24. Further, Bevelander does not disclose the recited continuously convex garment engaging arms.

The absence of at least these limitations overcomes the outstanding rejection.

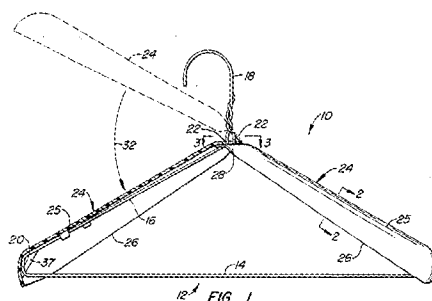
As Claims 13 and 14 depend from Claim 12 and include all the limitations thereof, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

#### *Claim 15*

Independent Claim 15 has been amended to recite in part,

the overchannel extending beyond a terminal end of the garment engaging arm by approximately 40% of a length of the garment engaging arm.

The sheath 24 of Bevelander is substantially co-terminus with the hanger segment 16.



Applicant respectfully submits amended Claim 15 overcomes the outstanding rejection.

As Claims 16 – 21 depend from Claim 15 and include all the limitations thereof, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

#### *Rejections under 35 USC § 103*

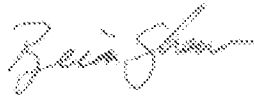
Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Bevelander in view of Hill (US 4,040,545). [Paper 03152006, p. 7]

Claim 10 depends from Claim 1 and includes all the limitations and amendments thereof. In view of the amendments to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits Bevelander no longer discloses the invention substantially as claimed, and thus, cannot sustain the rejected under 35 USC § 103.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits all the pending claims, Claims 1, 2 and 4 - 21 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If, however, the Examiner feels that any further issues remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned so that such matters may be promptly resolved.

Dated: September 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian B. Shaw".

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